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Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates present to ALK-7 polypeptides, nucleic acids encoding such polypeptides, cells, tissues and animals containing such nucleic acids, antibodies to such polypeptides, utilizing such polypeptides, and methods relating to all of the foregoing. Methods for treatment, diagnosis, and screening are provided for ALK-7 related diseases or conditions characterized by an abnormal interaction between an ALK-7 polypeptide and an ALK-7 binding partner.